The Future of Human Research: Concerns and Possibilities

James A. Weyhenmeyer, Ph.D., senior vice president for research for the State University of New York and its Research Foundation, will be the featured speaker for a UB Human Research Protection Program Distinguished Speakers Series presentation scheduled for 2pm on April 1, 2009 at the Center for Tomorrow on the UB North Campus. Dr. Weyhenmeyer’s topic will be “The Future of Human Research: Concerns and Possibilities.” He will explore important current and emerging trends and issues concerning research on human beings that will change the face of human research enterprise. Weyhenmeyer will bring a wealth of research, business and administrative experience to bear in his presentation.

As a cell biologist/neuroscientist, Dr. Weyhenmeyer has researched and published extensively on degenerative brain disorders. He has been funded by the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, American Heart Association, and the PHARMA Foundation. He serves on a number of national scientific committees and boards and recently finished terms as the president of the American Heart Association-Midwest and chair of the American Heart Association’s National Research Committee.

Dr. Weyhenmeyer has extensive experience translating research into beneficial products. He has served as chief scientific officer for a medical device company and chief operating officer for a drug delivery company. He also has served on scientific advisory boards for companies in the gene technology and drug development sectors and as a scientific and business consultant for early-stage due diligence. As executive director of Illinois Ventures, LLC, Dr. Weyhenmeyer led an organization that focuses on the early-stage development of technology-based companies deriving from regional research institutions and universities.

He is an experienced senior administrator who has held executive administrative appointments at the University of Illinois including associate vice president for academic affairs. While at Illinois, Dr. Weyhenmeyer helped lead the Urbana Champaign campus to full accreditation of its human research protection program and currently is a member of the Board of Directors of the national accrediting organization, the Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs.

In December 2007, Dr. Weyhenmeyer was elected to the Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences, a select group of 1,000 members who are notable scientists, engineers and economists from major U.S. research universities as well as international universities and companies. He serves as a member of the Board of Governors of Argonne National Laboratory and the Board of Directors of Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory.

Your comments are most welcome. Please submit to Mr. Edward M. Zablocki, UB Research Subjects Protection Administrator at zablocki@buffalo.edu.